

Sometimes Believing Isn't Believing

John 2:23-25 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

❖ Introduction

➤ Maybe one of the Most Important set of verses in the Book.

- Like 2 we have seen so far...
- 1:14 – the word became flesh and dwelt among us
- 1:29 – the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

❖ Recap

➤ John 1

- In Beginning, the Word, with God, as God, made all things, life, light, overcame darkness
 - The Witness about the Light
 - Jesus Revealed God through Grace
 - To All who received him He gave right to become Children of God
 - The Word became flesh
 - The Lamb that takes away sins
 - The One who gives us the Spirit
 - Stop Looking, it is Jesus you are seeking
- Water into Wine
- Cleansing of the Temple

❖ Lenses

➤ Purpose of the Gospel

- John 20:30–31: “.....but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

➤ Timeless Principals

- Living Portraits of humanity in every era

24.... because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

❖ Jesus Knows All Things About All People (He knows what is in Man)

➤ Psalm 139:1-4 “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

- Searches us to know us
 - Knows when we are sitting
 - Knows when we get up to go
 - Not only does He know our thoughts... He discerns them... knows what they mean
 - Searches out our paths... (our direction in life)
 - When we lay down
 - Acquainted with...my ways (the hebrew word practically means.. he is intimately familiar with
 - Even before we speak, He knows what is about to be said...
- He *knew all men*, not only their names and faces,

- nature, - our qualities and character
- dispositions, - your moods and attitudes
- affections, - what is precious to you.... What you love and like...
- designs, - your plans... what you want to do
- **We do not know *any man, hardly ourselves.***
 - We always hear... we should listen to our hearts...
 - Do what feels right... If it makes me happy then it must be right...
 - Right? I am not making this up... this is our culture.... And many here may have this mentality
 - **Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."**
- **He knows *all men, Nothing is Hidden***
 - **Hebrews 4:13 ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**
 - for his powerful hand made them all,
 - **Naked and Exposed**
 - Ever have those dreams... where you are in front of people naked or without a shirt...
 - It is very uncomfortable...
 - That is our inner self...
 - ◆ We are laid bare before God...
- **His Sight is Penetrating and Refining**
 - **Rev. 1:14 ¹⁴ His head and hair were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,**
 - Fire is used here to describe the depth of His gaze...
 - Not only does He see it, but He sees the rightness and wickedness of our deeds....
- **A Very Frightful Thought**
 - When we meditate on this... it could scare us...
 - At the end we will consider it....
- **Why this Attribute is Glorious....**
 - Coming soon...

23.....many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them

❖ **Sometimes Believing isn't Believing**

- **When asked How do you know you are going to heaven.**
 - We often respond... Because I believe in God... or in Jesus...
 - And that can be a correct answer... while for others this answer means little or nothing...
- **The meaning of the word Belief**
 - Kind of confusing isn't it? – so many different ways to think of it...
 - To Believe:
 - 1) to have confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so
 - 2) to suppose or assume; understand
 - 3) to be persuaded of the truth or existence of
- **Even Demons Believe**
 - **James 2:19 ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!**

- Mark 5:7-8 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” 8 For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

- expound

➤ **Satan knows who Jesus is**

- Better than we do.

➤ **Why did these People in John 2 believe?**

- “they saw the signs that he was doing”

➤ **Example of Nicodemus**

- Next Chapter Nicodemus comes
- John 3:1-3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - By Night
 - Teacher come from God
 - ◆ We know it
 - God is with You

➤ **Example of Judas**

- Seems He followed Jesus for His own personal gain
- When it looked like He was going to be on the losing side...
- He jumped ship... and betrayed the Son of Man...

➤ **Example of Jesus’ Brothers**

- John 7:3-5 So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 For not even his brothers believed in him.

➤ **Did not Entrust Himself to these lovers of signs**

- He knew their Hearts
- They Believed in the signs...
- He would not Give Himself to them...

➤ **The people wanted a physical King... A Leader here for their own benefit**

- They believed in the power He had...
- They believed He was a teacher from God
- And God was with Him...
 - They did not believe He was indeed GOD...
 - ◆ And that was the problem

➤ **Understanding True Believing**

- **Is Simple and Complex**
- **Complex – When we describe what the true believer has placed His Faith in about Jesus**
 - With all our heart... we really believe... truly with real intentions not fake...
 - We Believe..... He is God
 - ... Sin Removing Lamb of God
 - Trusting in Jesus to remove our sins from us...
 - ◆ Because we know without Righteousness (being made perfect) no man can see God
 - **And... Nothing can separate us from this belief....**

- ◆ Not even in the face of death...
- ◆ The true believer will take a bullet, the fire, imprisonment and the sword
- **Simple – Maybe one of these will make sense to you...**
 - **How we Describe this:** Repentance of Sins and Faith in the name (nature) of Jesus Christ
 - **(What really happens:)** Given the Holy Spirit -
 - ◆ This is called the work of Regeneration... to be made new; to come to life
 - ◆ No one ever came to God, without this happening first....
 - ◆ Without the coming of the Spirit...
 - The individual can not place their faith in Jesus.... Nor can they repent of their sins...
 - **Individual Examples:** Abraham – God called Abraham – Abraham believed God – followed Him
 - ◆ The Scriptures say Abraham’s believing made Him righteous in God’s eyes...
 - **Jesus Words:**
 - ◆ **Matthew 10:38** ³⁸ **And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**
 - Take up his life.... (follow him with his life)
 - ◆ **Matthew 16:24** ²⁴ **Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**
 - A Denial of Self want and pleasures to follow Jesu
 - ◆ **John 10:26-28** ²⁶ **but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.**
- **When the Shepherd is Struck... the sheep scatter... but the goats run away**
 - His followers got scared... didn’t they.... But they followed close by...
 - The fakers left town... they wanted nothing to do with that bloody crucifixion

24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them

❖ **Man needs Jesus to give Himself to us**

- **Jesus Must Give Himself to You**
 - The Old Hymn – Just as you are
 - A little misleading... if you just look at the title...
 - You can not come to Jesus just like you are...
 - ◆ We are filled with pride and hate and many sins...
 - **Jesus will not give Himself to the prideful...**
 - We must come to Him (yes... with all our sin)
 - But in Humility... Admitting He is right and we are wrong to have lived the way we have lived
 - **The Saying... All you have to do is just Accept Jesus**
 - Ask Jesus into your heart
 - We talk about Him like He is a lost puppy that needs a home...
 - What if He does not accept us?
 - What if He doesn’t come into our heart when we ask....?
 - **People Truly Come to God...**
 - Because they know they have no other Hope...
 - They know they can not work off or cover their sins...
 - They come to Jesus in total desperation
 - They are able to leave everything because they see he IS everything....

- **You Must be given the Holy Spirit**
 - John the Baptist said of Jesus:
 - **John 1:33 this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'**
 - He immerses us, fills us, pours into us the Spirit...
 - **One of our Favorite verses from the O.T.**
 - **Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**
 - If that has never happened to you... you have never been saved...
- **What is your angle (reason) for believing Jesus**
 - This group wanted to return to power
 - Loved the signs...

❖ **Jesus Knows All , Yet Still Loves (The Glorious Part)**

- **He knows our:**
 - Hatreds
 - Pride
 - Lust
 - Greed
 - Envy
 - Slander
 - Gossip
 - Impatience
 - blasphemy
- **He knows the stuff hidden in my heart. (embarrassing stuff)**
 - The pride hidden in my heart
 - The Apathy hidden
 - The selfishness close to the surface
 - The lust trying to break through
 - The anger that wants to come out....
- **He loves me Anyway**
 - **Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
 - **Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**
 - **Do you understand those two verses....**
 - **They are Game Changers -**
- **What does Jesus know about you?**
 - What is hiding inside of your heart
 - Lurking below the surface... that you keep hidden from the rest of us...
- **He wants you anyway....**
 - Bring all your sins with you.... Be Repentant... he will remove it... And replace it with Righteousness
 - You could have walked in here carrying a huge burden of sin and shame...
 - He is telling you to give it to Him... cause He can carry it and you can leave with out it...
 - **1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

- **A Warning:**
- **If He can love me, and He is Perfect... what is stopping us from loving and showing grace toward each other.**
 - **Matthew 18:23-35** 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
- **What right do you have to be condescending and to think yourself better than your brother or sister...**
 - Can we not be loving and show kindness to people through their imperfections...
- **What right do we have not to love...**
 - **John 13:35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

❖ **Today is the Day**